

## MISSOURI EMISSIONS INVENTORY SYSTEM

The Department of Natural Resources' Air Pollution Control Program has been working with Tier Technologies to develop the Missouri Emission Inventory System (MoEIS), an integrated emissions inventory system. By combining all emissions inventory data into one database, MoEIS ensures more accurate and efficient data. This new system will benefit both the Department of Natural Resources and industry.

Department staff will be able to access emissions data from one database instead of searching multiple systems. MoEIS will also reduce the staff time needed for data entry since the information will only need to be entered once. By reducing the number of times data must be entered, the number of errors will also be reduced. In addition, MoEIS automatically conducts quality checks on the data entered to help ensure the integrity of the data.

The new system can filter site information by various categories and break the information down into subgroups. These features will make it easier to respond to requests for specific data. MoEIS was also developed using common formats, which makes data sharing easier, especially when transferring data to EPA. In fact, EPA praised the first inventory sent by the department using MoEIS.

When the current development phase is complete, MoEIS will greatly reduce the reporting burden placed on industry by allowing electronic submittal of Emissions Inventory Questionnaires (EIQs). The electronic EIQs should also save industry significant time when submitting data. Instead of having to enter the same information on multiple forms, MoEIS will automatically transfer the information from one form to another. Data will also be able to be transferred from one year to the next. The online system is available 24

hours a day, until a company submits their information for the reporting period.

MoEIS has gone through three phases of development. In 1999, the department began the construction of the emissions inventory system by combining the four existing systems into one integrated system. This new system combined over 7,000 Paradox tables and Access databases. The second phase was the evaluation of software for creating the online application of MoEIS. The department, with the help of Tier Technologies, evaluated three Web development tools in order to find the best selection to fit their needs. The third and current phase of the project is the development of a Web portal that will allow the regulated community to submit their EIQs online.

MoEIS is designed to allow for further expansion in the future. Additional components can be added to accommodate other functions. The Air Pollution Control Program hopes to continue the development of the system to allow online permit applications and fee payments. MoEIS is the department's first effort into electronic government and Government-to-Business transactions.

## ELECTRONIC PERMIT APPLICATION

The Department of Natural Resources' Air Pollution Control Program, working with the Missouri Limestone Producers Association and Trinity Consultants, has created an electronic New Source Review Permit Application/Permit Review Program for stone quarrying and crushing plants. The electronic permits will be issued more quickly, consistently and with less cost.

The electronic application is based on a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. Applicants enter information about haul roads, storage piles and process equipment. The software calculates the am-

bient impact and emissions. This allows the applicant to know if the permit can be issued as submitted beforehand and if so what conditions would apply. The Air Pollution Control Program will assure the proper data was entered and the software was used correctly.

Applicants can also use the software to help make business decisions before applying for their permit. The spreadsheet can analyze various operating scenarios and their effects on air quality thus allowing the applicant to tailor the proposed plant to the property.

"To the best of our knowledge, this is the first electronic application that also performs ambient dispersion modeling and ambient impact analysis and therefore lets the applicants make decisions before submitting their application," said Roger Randolph, Director of the Air Pollution Control Program.

The electronic permit will also shorten the time it takes to issue a stone quarrying and processing plant permit. By receiving complete applications, the time it takes for staff to review a permit before issuing will decrease significantly while increasing the consistency of the permits and protecting the air quality. The electronic permit will also greatly reduce paperwork since applications will be submitted on disk instead of on paper, which then has to be transferred into the spreadsheet.

The stone quarrying electronic permit application was approved on May 31, 2001. The application includes instructions for installing the software, a workbook with instructions on how to complete the data files, a user's guide, department policies related to the permitting process, and an example project.

For information about how to receive an electronic permit application, call the Department of Natural Resources' Environmental Assistance Office, formally known as the Technical Assistance Program, at 1-800-361-4827 or visit <http://www.dnr.state.mo.us/oac>.